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FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION: ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES AND WAYS AND MEANS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM FOR IMPROVING THE EFFECTIVE ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

Development of public information activities in the field of human rights

Note by the Secretary-General

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Introduction

1. In resolution 1990/72, entitled "Development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights", the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its forty-seventh session a report on public information activities with special emphasis on the activities of the World Campaign, including details of the costs incurred in 1990, the budget envisaged for future activities and a further assessment of the impact of the World Campaign activities undertaken by the United Nations in the field of human rights. It should be recalled that the Secretary-General has already submitted a comprehensive report on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights to the General Assembly (A/45/590). This report has been made available to the Commission on Human Rights.

2. The present note deals therefore with the additional information requested in paragraph 16 of resolution 1990/72, namely, the proposed aims and activities of the World Campaign, details of the costs incurred in 1990, the budget envisaged for future activities and an assessment of the impact of the World Campaign activities.

I. ACTIVITIES OF THE WORLD CAMPAIGN

A. Background

3. Since 1979, the Commission on Human Rights has adopted each year resolutions on the development of public information activities in the field of human rights: resolutions 23 (XXXV) of 1979, 24 (XXXVI) of 1980, 24 (XXXVII) of 1981, 1982/42, 1983/50, 1984/58, 1985/49, 1986/54, 1987/39, 1988/74 and 1989/53.

4. These resolutions indicate the Commission's primary concern with teaching, education and information activities, as well as the need to stimulate public interest in the promotion and encouragement of universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms; they have recommended, inter alia:

(a) Wider distribution of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in "personalized" versions and local languages;

(b) Wider distribution of the text of other major human rights instruments in regional languages;

(c) Provision of basic reference and information materials to United Nations information centres;

(d) Greater use of audio-visual techniques and co-productions;

(e) The production of United Nations material in a simplified, attractive and accessible form;

(f) That the priority audience for United Nations material should be children, young people and the disadvantaged, including those in isolated areas;

(g) That adequate funding be provided for public information activities on human rights;

(h) Use of the mass media, especially radio and television;

(i) Utilization of the whole United Nations system, as well as non-governmental organizations, in the dissemination of material on human rights;

(j) Harmonization of United Nations activities with other organizations.

A more complete list of themes recommended is found in paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report of the Secretary-General to the forty-third session of the General Assembly (A/43/711).

5. For the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1988, major efforts were made by the international community in the areas of information, education and public awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The momentum created by

those activities culminated in the unanimous launching by the United Nations General Assembly of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights on 10 December 1988 (General Assembly resolution 43/128 of 8 December 1988).

6. The fortieth anniversary also coincided with a new phase of United Nations activities and efforts in the field of human rights. Indeed, while the legislative process was not yet completed, it was evident that main achievements in standard-setting had already been made. Now, the implementation of the body of norms available in the field of human rights clearly constitutes a major United Nations priority. The attainment of that objective on a global scale necessitated information leading to awareness and knowledge of basic rights and freedoms, of the machinery available for the promotion and protection of those rights and of the role that the United Nations plays in this field. Hence, information and education in the field of human rights represent an essential element towards the universal implementation of the body of law available in this field.

B. World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights

7. The main objective of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights is to increase understanding and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as to educate on the international human rights machinery and efforts of the United Nations to promote and protect human rights. Thus, the World Campaign aims at building a universal culture of human rights, one that clearly recognizes that human rights and fundamental freedoms are inherent to the human person without any distinction as to his or her race, colour, sex, language or religion.

8. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General to the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly (A/45/590), activities within the World Public Information Campaign have been grouped into five major areas: preparation and dissemination of printed information and reference materials; workshops, seminars and training courses; fellowships and internships; special human rights observances; and coverage and promotion activities.

II. CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

9. The Centre has continued to implement the programme of production of information and reference material started in 1988 in connection with the fortieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which includes the issuance of Fact Sheets, the Human Rights Newsletter, the Bulletin of Human Rights, etc. It should be noted, in particular, that some 100 language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are now available and that the Centre continues to receive and authenticate new languages. Since the issue of the last report of the Secretary-General (A/45/590), the ad hoc publication entitled "The African Charter on Human and People's Rights" was issued and is now available in both English and French. Additionally, the summary of the United Nations Training Course on International Norms and Standards in the Field of Human Rights, held in Moscow from 27 November to 1 December 1989, is already available in English. The summary of the International Consultation on AIDS and Human Rights held in Geneva from 26 to 28 July 1989 has also been issued in English. More details about the printed public information and reference material published by the Centre are found in the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on public information activities (A/45/590, paras. 6-19).

10. Since January 1990, the Centre has organized a number of workshops, training courses and seminars on various human rights issues. They were held in all parts of the world, namely in Manila, Sintra, Ottawa, Montevideo, Asunción, Kiev, New Delhi and Geneva. These meetings were organized within the framework of the advisory services and technical assistance programme and have also served, despite their very technical nature, to spread information and increase awareness of the objectives of the World Campaign for Human Rights. Throughout 1990 the Centre also co-operated in the organization of or actively participated in some 60 workshops, seminars and meetings on human rights issues organized by academic and research institutions and non-governmental organizations in all parts of the world. Particular mention should be made here of co-operative endeavours in the field of training with non-governmental organizations, such as the International Commission of Jurists, with whom the Centre organized seminars on the independence of the judiciary, most recently in India from 20 to 21 January 1990. The Centre also planned for November 1990, in co-operation with the International Human Rights Law Group and the Bulgarian National Assembly, a workshop on Constitutional Reform in Sofia, Bulgaria. The workshop will be held from 21 to 23 January 1991. For more details concerning these activities, see the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on public information activities in the field of human rights (A/45/590, paras. 20-36).

11. Several human rights exhibitions were sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights in 1990. They were opened and addressed by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, and include: (1) Art of Aboriginal Australia (30 January-2 March), in co-operation with the Australian Government; (2) Respecter l'Homme en Temps de Guerre (14 February-8 March) in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross to mark the one hundred and twenty-fifth anniversary of the Geneva Convention of 1864; (3) Auschwitz: Crimes Against Mankind (19 March-9 April) in co-operation with the International Auschwitz Committee to portray through photographs, documents, etc., the death camps in Poland. Human rights exhibits and stands

were included in connection with activities organized by the Department of Public Information for the forty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations on 24 October, which was attended by some 12,000 people, as well as for Human Rights Day on 10 December.

12. The observance of Human Rights Day on 10 December 1990 focused on the independence and security of international civil servants and coincided with the official opening of the International Seminar on the Root Causes Contributing to Racism and Racial Discrimination, organized by the Centre within the framework of the programme of activities of the second decade to combat racism and racial discrimination. A round table on the security and independence of international civil servants, organized by the Association for the Security and Independence of International Civil Servants (ASIICS) in co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information, was addressed by members of ASIICS as well as by international experts, including Prof. P. Alston from Australia. An exhibit on the human rights of staff members was organized by the Staff Union at Headquarters and co-sponsored by the Centre for Human Rights. The exhibit was opened by the Secretary-General.

13. In keeping with its mandate to co-ordinate the substantive activities of the World Campaign, the Centre for Human Rights called a meeting of all specialized agencies and other United Nations organs in March to review and discuss, inter alia, ongoing activities in the areas of information, education and training in the field of human rights. The meeting was well attended and identified co-operative endeavours with several members of the United Nations family. Details concerning these possibilities for co-operation are given in paragraphs 59 to 81 of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on public information activities (document A/45/590).

14. Outside the United Nations system as well, the Centre for Human Rights has increased its co-operation with regional institutions, such as the OAU Commission on Human and People's Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Council of Europe. In addition, the Centre has continued its support for two new regional human rights institutes - one in Banjul for Africa and one in Tunis for the Arab region - and has increased its co-operation with well-known human rights institutions in San José (Costa Rica), Strasbourg (France), San Remo (Italy), etc. (A/45/590, paras. 82-99).

15. On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the International Institute of Humanitarian Law, several activities were organized in San Remo, Italy from 4 to 8 September, including the Fifteenth Round Table on current problems of international humanitarian law on 7 September. The meeting, attended by some 170 representatives of NGOs from all over the world, was opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr. Jan Martenson. In order to strengthen the co-operation between the San Remo Institute and the Centre for Human Rights, a Human Rights Commission has been established at the Institute. Mr. Martenson will serve as its Chairman; other members include the Chairmen of the Commission on Human Rights and its Sub-Commission; Mrs. E.I. Daes and Mrs. H. Warzazi (members of the Sub-Commission), Prof. F. Pocar (Rapporteur of the Human Rights Committee), and Mr. A. Dieng (Secretary-General, International Commission of Jurists).

16. In Prague, Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Centre for Human Rights participated from 19 to 21 October in the first meeting of the Helsinki Citizen's Assembly. The meeting, attended by over 1,000 people, was opened by Mr. V. Havel and stressed the importance of citizens' involvement in the Helsinki process.

17. The Centre for Human Rights was also represented at the informal Ministerial Meeting to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the European Human Rights Convention, held in Rome on 4 November. The meeting, organized by the Council of Europe in co-operation with the Italian Government, was addressed by senior representatives of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, the European Community, the Council of Europe and the United Nations Centre for Human Rights. The Italian Foreign Minister, Mr. G. De Michelis, opened the meeting. In his statement, Mr. Martenson stressed the importance of a closer link between the human dimension of the CSCE process and the United Nations, as well as closer co-operation between the Centre for Human Rights and the Council of Europe, particularly in the area of technical assistance.

18. At the invitation of the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights was in Prague and Bratislava from 12 to 13 November. While there, in addition to discussions with senior government officials, including the President, Mr. V. Havel, on human rights issues and on possible co-operation between the Republic and the United Nations, Mr. Martenson addressed the official commemoration of United Nations Day in Bratislava and discussed human rights questions with the Chairman and other members of the Slovak Parliament.

19. The Centre for Human Rights participated in the Seminar on Human Rights Instruments, their Ratification and Implementation, for public officials of the countries of the South Pacific, organized in Ratatonga, the Cook Islands, on 21 November 1990. This meeting was followed by a workshop on human rights organized by the Commonwealth Secretariat (Human Rights Unit) from 21 to 23 November. The Centre also participated in this activity. Countries represented included Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Tokelau, Vanuatu and Western Samoa.

20. The Centre for Human Rights also co-sponsored in New Delhi, India, from 10 to 15 December, the World Congress on Human Rights organized by the J. Nehru University. The Congress was attended by some 200 representatives of NGOs from over 50 countries. United Nations organizations and agencies specifically concerned with human rights questions were also invited to attend. During the meeting, opened by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights and former Chief Justice Bagwati, 10 working groups dealt with issues such as the rights of refugees and stateless persons; women and minorities; economic, social and cultural rights; political and civil rights; protection of the rights of vulnerable sections of society; human rights teaching and research; ethnic, social and religious conflict and mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights. Papers were presented or working sessions addressed by international human rights experts, including Mr. D. Türk, Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; Mr. I. Martin, Secretary-General of Amnesty International; Ms. L. Wiseberg, from Internet; Mr. H. Thoolen from HURIDOCS; and Prof. J.N. Saxena, from the J. Nehru University, in New Delhi. The World

Congress also decided to transmit, through the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, its recommendations and resolutions to the Preparatory Committee of the United Nations World Conference scheduled to be held in 1993.

21. Also in New Delhi, the Centre for Human Rights organized a workshop in co-operation with the Indian Government on the Rights of the Child with special focus on the girl child. Details of this activity organized within the framework of the technical assistance programme of the Centre may be found in paragraph 48 of the Secretary-General's report on Advisory Services to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1991/55).

22. On 10 and 11 December the round table on similarities and differences between universal and European norms for the protection of human rights was organized by the Yugoslav Institute of International Economics and Politics in co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights and the Council of Europe. The Round Table was opened by the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Yugoslavia and addressed by members of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, the European Committee of Human Rights and international experts from Yugoslavia. The meeting was attended by representatives of the government, academic and research institutions, NGOs and media from Yugoslavia.

23. In connection with non-governmental organizations, three one-day consultations have been held in Geneva during the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on activities within the framework of the World Campaign. On 14 September, a consultation on the rights of the child, part of the 1990 Department of Public Information Conference on NGOs, was held in New York with over 300 participants representing many human rights organizations (A/45/590, paras. 100-104).

24. With the assistance of the Department of Public Information or of the United Nations information centres world-wide, the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights has given radio and television interviews, including an interview for the United Nations World Chronicle, as well as briefings and press conferences on special human rights commemorations, as well as at United Nations seminars and workshops, focusing, inter alia, on the aims and objectives of the World Campaign. Senior staff members of the Centre have also occasionally given interviews and briefings to the media. Briefings of the NGO Committee on Human Rights were provided by staff of the Centre for Human Rights in New York.

III. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

25. Further to the objectives of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights to increase understanding and awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the Department of Public Information was requested by the Commission in paragraph 9 of its resolution 1990/72 to make full use of the available resources in the field of human rights in order to expand and update its stock of audio-visual materials on human rights. It also requested the Department to increase the print run of information and reference materials.

26. As the department that has primary responsibility for information activities, DPI co-ordinates the public information activities of the World Campaign and, as secretariat to the Joint United Nations Information Committee, promotes system-wide information activities in the field of human rights. As stated in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/45/590), the Department continues to carry out a co-ordinated multi-media approach to ensure the effective coverage of human rights activities as well as world-wide distribution of relevant information materials.

27. In the 1990-1991 programme budget, the Department has a mandate under the thematic heading of human rights. It also has other mandated programmes in such related areas as social, cultural and economic rights; rights of specific groups; and other major issues including, inter alia, activities against apartheid, the question of Palestine, self-determination, decolonization and women. The Department's related activities are regularly reported to the General Assembly and other inter-governmental bodies under each specific area or issue.

A. Activities in the field of human rights

28. The multi-media approach of the Department in the field of human rights can be grouped into three broad areas: products, services and dissemination of information. These areas include, inter alia: printed material; film, radio and television; photos and exhibits; press coverage including press conferences; media liaison; public inquiries; special events and activities; collaboration with non-governmental organizations; utilization of the resources of the 67 United Nations information centres and services; and inter-agency co-productions.

29. It should be noted that most of these activities, in such areas as radio and television, photos and exhibits; press coverage including press conferences; media liaison; public inquiries; visitors service; non-governmental organizations; United Nations information centres and services; and inter-agency co-productions are not under the programme budget thematic heading of human rights and are funded under other sections of the budget.

30. A focal point on the thematic issue of human rights was appointed in May 1990 in the Communications and Project Management Division in order to co-ordinate the Department's activities on this issue. In the biennium 1990-1991, the activities specifically mandated under this theme included: commemoration of Human Rights Day; production of an illustrated text of the

Convention on the Rights of the Child; a 30-minute documentary film about the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights; production of 10 local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; an educational video and study guide; reprints of human rights instruments; an international media round table on human rights for journalists; production in Arabic, Russian and Chinese of a booklet entitled Human Rights: Questions and Answers; publication of the biannual subscription and sales publication entitled Objective: Justice; and continued acquisition of documentation and development of references services on human rights at the libraries of United Nations information centres and services. These activities were detailed to the Commission in the note by the Secretary-General on the Development of Public Information activities in the Field of Human Rights (E/CN.4/1990/19).

31. As reported to the Commission last year, originally the Department was allocated $416,700. However, $9,400 was added from the Special Programmes budget to augment the amount, which now totals $426,100 for the 1990-1991 biennium. In addition, in order to fulfil its mandates regarding human rights for the 1990-1991 biennium, the Department continues to utilize all its available facilities funded under different sections of the budget, as mentioned earlier in this chapter.

32. To commemorate Human Rights Day at Headquarters on 10 December 1990, the Department co-organized, with the Centre for Human Rights, a special panel discussion on the newly adopted International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The panel was chaired by Ms. Purificacion Quisumbing, Chairman of the Commission of Human Rights. The Department also produced an exhibition on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights for display on Human Rights Day.

33. In conjunction with the observance by United Nations staff of the Day, the Department issued a Fact Sheet on the independence and security of the international civil service which was simultaneously released world-wide. The Department also assisted the International Task Force on Literacy and UNESCO in the preparation of a special presentation to the Secretary-General on 10 December 1990, in the context of the "Book Voyage" project, and a seminar on literacy and human rights on 11 December. At the weekly DPI briefing for non-governmental organizations on 6 December 1990, human rights was also the focus. The annual commemoration of Human Rights Day has a budget of $7,000 for the biennium

34. The illustrated publication of the Convention on the Rights of the Child is now in production. The publication will be produced in the six official languages of the United Nations and will be distributed world-wide. It will be targeted for use by students. Previously, it was reported that this publication might be prepared in co-operation with the Sales Section at United Nations Headquarters but the Sales Section found it had to be postponed until a later date. This activity has a budget of $26,100.

35. The 30-minute documentary film being produced by the Department on the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights is scheduled for release in mid-1991. The film will be available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish for distribution to United Nations information centres and services and for television and non-theatrical screenings. This activity was provided with a budget of $162,000.

36. Production of local language texts of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights continues. The Centre has provided the Department with 31 authenticated local language versions. Texts in Haitian Creole and Indonesian have been re-printed and eight more are being produced in 1991 with the co-operation of the United Nations information centres and services. The texts are being distributed to non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and the general public. Over the years, the Department has published some 90 different language versions and endeavours to maintain a stock, as required. This activity has been allocated $28,000 for the biennium.

37. As part of the About the United Nations educational video series, the Department began work in late 1990 on a video and accompanying teaching guide on human rights and the United Nations. The video kit, being prepared in consultation with the Centre, will be in English, French and Spanish. It will be available to schools, colleges, non-governmental organizations and speakers on the United Nations. It is part of a series of educational programmes leading up to the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. This video kit has been allocated $75,000 during the biennium.

38. The Department began or completed in 1990 reprints and/or new official language productions of 12 human rights instruments. These are detailed in paragraph 52 of the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/45/590). They are being distributed world-wide to non-governmental organizations, journalists, parliamentarians, educational institutions and libraries, government agencies and officials and the general public. This activity had a budget of $34,000.

39. The international media round table on human rights is now being planned for mid-1991. The round table, organized in consultation with the Centre, will bring together journalists, United Nations officials and other experts on human rights to discuss better media coverage of the work of the United Nations in this field. It has a budget of $45,000.

40. The booklet Human Rights: Questions and Answers was printed in Arabic and Russian in 1990 and will be printed in Chinese in early 1991. It will be distributed to United Nations information centres and services, non-governmental organizations, educational institutions and the general public. Its budget is $28,600.

41. Two editions of Objective: Justice were produced in 1990. Among other topics, the June 1990 issue carried an article on the Convention on the Rights of the Child and reproduced its text in full. This biannual subscription and sales publication in English will continue to appear in 1991. It is intended for non-governmental organizations, the press, educational institutions and libraries, parliamentarians and government agencies and officials. It has a budget of $20,400 for the biennium.

42. The Department has continued its efforts to ensure comprehensive documentation and reference services on human rights for various users at the libraries of United Nations information centres and services. A list of basic information and reference material is being finalized, with the assistance of the Centre. Last year the Department circulated a questionnaire to the information centres and services to help to establish the continuing needs of their reference libraries in the field of human rights. It should be noted

that no funding was allocated to this activity and therefore funding will come from the budgets of the United Nations information centres and services, as required and as available.

43. In addition to the above-mentioned activities specifically mentioned under the thematic heading of human rights, the Department carried out a number of directly related activities in 1990. Several were aimed at promoting the Rights of the Child, on the occasion of the adoption by the General Assembly of the Convention on the Rights of the Child on 20 November 1989 and of its entry into force on 2 September 1990. For example, the Department provided technical arrangements for media coverage of the World Summit for Children at Headquarters on 29 and 30 September 1990 - a major event that provided new political weight for the Convention. The Department also distributed world-wide, through the United Nations information centres and services, 10,000 copies of the information kit on the Convention produced by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), in English, French and Spanish.

44. "A World Safe for Children: Meeting the Challenge of the 1990s" was the theme of the 1990 Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information (DPI) for non-governmental organizations, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 12 to 14 September 1990. A record 1,100 NGO representatives from 60 countries analysed and examined critical factors affecting the world's children. Immediately following the event, a four-page "Conference Summary and Special Report to World Leaders" was presented to the 160 Permanent Representatives to the United Nations as an urgent plea for action to the heads of State who were to participate in the World Summit on Children, on 29 and 30 September 1990.

45. As reported to the General Assembly (A/45/590), the Department released the English, French and Spanish versions of the video entitled "Brushstrokes" in early 1990. This animated film on prejudice, which was also released in Arabic in late 1990, is aimed at eliminating racial prejudice.

46. The Department also included human rights issues in eight of its weekly briefings for non-governmental organizations in 1990. More than 1,100 non-governmental organizations world-wide are associated directly with the Department. More than 175 representatives of these organizations regularly attend the weekly briefings.

47. The Department continued to give full press, radio and television coverage of the proceedings of all United Nations inter-governmental bodies concerned with human rights, such as the Commission on Human Rights and its various committees and working groups, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Committee against Torture and the work of the special rapporteurs. As in previous years, the United Nations Information Service at Geneva highlighted the work of the Commission, which held its forty-sixth session in early 1990 at the Palais des Nations. A report of the activities of the United Nations Information Service, Geneva, is found in Section B below.

48. The Department's regular publications, such as UN Chronicle, Yearbook of the United Nations, Development Forum and Africa Recovery, as well as Objective: Justice, have devoted numerous articles, including cover stories,

to human rights issues. Eight of the Department's feature articles issued during 1990 under the title United Nations Focus dealt with human rights issues and numerous others covered human rights-related subjects, including six on the advancement of women. The articles, usually issued in English, French and Spanish, are mainly sent to United Nations information centres and services for placement in local newspapers and to non-governmental organizations for redissemination.

49. The 1990 edition of Notes for Speakers, used by those who prepare speeches and briefings about the United Nations for general audiences, also contains one chapter devoted to human rights issues.

50. In 1990 the Department continued to produce information material pertaining to human rights and related issues as part of its weekly radio and television programmes in official and non-official languages. In addition to numerous short items and interviews on human rights issues in its current affairs radio magazine, the Department produced 18 special features on this theme. Those programmes on the "United Nations and the human rights situation in South Africa" in the "One South Africa" radio series are broadcast in English, Sesotho, Setswana, Xhosa and Zulu. Human rights and related issues were also included in the Department's other news current affairs radio programmes, such as Perspective, which is broadcast to some 350 radio stations world-wide. The topics dealt with include, among others: international instruments dealing with civil and political rights, the right to development, the right of people to peace, the rights of the child, protection of the rights of migrant workers and the elimination of discrimination against women; the United Nations and human rights; and the human rights situation in South Africa and in other countries.

51. Video and television programmes such as UN in Action and programmes produced for CNN World Report, which are seen weekly in more than 120 countries, also include human rights issues. In December 1990, Mr. Jan Martenson, Under-Secretary-General of the Centre for Human Rights, was the featured guest on World Chronicle, a weekly television programme produced by the Department and aired on over 150 channels around the United States. World Chronicle is also regularly used by United Nations information centres, especially in Brazil, Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines and Trinidad.

52. The Department is co-ordinating, in co-operation with the Canadian International Development Agency, the production of an international television series entitled Agenda for a Small Planet IV: Blueprint for the Future -- Challenge and Response. The series will address the pressing challenges of the twenty-first century, including some related to human rights. It will be completed and launched in late 1991. More details are given in paragraph 55 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/590).

53. In addition to its work to develop new information products about human rights and to conduct regular briefings for non-governmental organizations, the Department continues to meet requests for documents and information material about human rights, to develop contacts with media, and to co-operate with other United Nations offices and non-governmental organizations by participating in and organizing events. Three panel discussions on human rights and social development were organized in June 1990 as part of the Department's Graduate Student Internship Programme and special briefings for

teachers. Briefings on human rights issues are also part of the Department's training programme for journalists from developing countries held during the General Assembly as well as during orientation programmes for newly-appointed NGO representatives.

54. It should be noted that the Department's Public Inquiries Unit received almost 1,700 requests for information on human rights in 1990. The focal point on human rights in the Communications and Project Management Division received an average of 30 requests per month for human rights information and publications during the last six months of 1990. The Dissemination Division of the Department distributed 157,565 copies of the Department's human rights publications last year in bulk quantities. The Visitors' Service at Headquarters arranged for 20 in-house briefings on human rights for a total of 700 people. In addition, information on United Nations work in the field of human rights was given to 496,229 visitors to United Nations Headquarters in New York.

B. Activities of United Nations information centres and services

1. United Nations Information Services at Geneva

55. During the reporting period, the United Nations Information Service continued to cover, through print and radio and audio-visual programmes, the proceedings of all United Nations inter-governmental bodies dealing with human rights which met in Geneva. A total of 15,145 publications on the general issue of human rights were distributed. In addition, the following publications were distributed: 511 on racial discrimination, 1,597 on women's issues, 1,544 on apartheid and 269 on the question of Namibia, as well as 355 press releases (192 English, 163 French) on human rights questions. Press conferences and interviews were conducted with personalities engaged in activities in support of human rights. Special events were organized by the Information Service in observance of international days and weeks on human rights related issues. Information on all aspects of United Nations action in human rights was provided to the 145,000 visitors who took guided tours at the Palais des Nations during 1990.

56. As part of the Graduate Study Programme organized by the Information Service in July 1990 for 100 graduate students from 50 countries, the activities of the United Nations for the promotion and the protection of human rights were prominently featured.

(a) Activities in support of the work of United Nations intergovernmental bodies dealing with human rights

(i) Coverage of the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights

57. As in previous years, the United Nations Information Service at Geneva highlighted the work of the Commission on Human Rights, which held its forty-sixth session from 29 January to 9 March 1990 at the Palais des Nations. On this occasion, the Service accredited 82 visiting journalists, in addition to the permanent press corps of some 200 journalists accredited to the United Nations Office in Geneva. Several press conferences on the Commission were organized, including one for the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights

before the opening of the session and two for the Chairman of the Commission. Meetings and briefings for NGOs were also organized in connection with the session.

58. A total of 55 press releases were issued in English and French. Radio interviews were produced in Arabic, English, French and Spanish; and radio dispatches were sent to New York on the Commission session and on various human rights working groups. Television coverage of the Commission was distributed through international television agencies and provided directly to individual television stations, to Permanent Missions and to NGOs. Several items were transmitted through VisNews and World Televisions News to stations in southern European and Nordic countries, Africa and the Middle East. Features on the Commission were also provided to Swiss TV, to Antenne 2 in France and to stations in Guatemala, Indonesia, the Philippines, Romania and Yugoslavia. In addition, the Service organized an exhibit in relation to the session of the Commission, distributed 1,063 posters on human rights and produced photos, negatives and slides during the session.

(ii) Dissemination of information on other intergovernmental and non-governmental meetings

59. During the year under review, the Information Service devoted most of its resources and attention to human rights questions. It provided full coverage, in English and in French, to the following human rights bodies; in addition to the forty-sixth session of the Commission on Human Rights:

(a) Three sessions and part of the mission of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices in the Occupied Territories;

(b) The fourth and fifth sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(c) The fourth and fifth sessions of the Committee against Torture;

(d) The forty-second session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities;

(e) The thirty-eighth, thirty-ninth and fortieth sessions of the Human Rights Committee; and,

(f) The thirty-ninth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

60. At the request of the Centre for Human Rights, an Information Officer was sent on mission to London to cover the proceedings of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Southern Africa from 20 to 24 August. Press releases were transmitted to UNIS, Geneva and DPI, New York for re-dissemination.

61. International days devoted to human rights questions, such as on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and on Solidarity with the Palestinian People, were publicized and covered. Furthermore, some of the subsidiary human rights bodies such as working groups on specific questions received limited coverage. Human rights activities were reflected in the Semaine internationale/Weekly Review. The Spokesman drew attention to developments and activities on human rights during the twice-weekly press briefings.

62. Press conferences were organized by the Information Service in connection with the work of all the above-mentioned inter-governmental bodies.

(b) Information activities in observance of international human rights days and weeks and in connection with other special events

63. In observance of International Women's Day, 8 March 1990, a panel discussion was organized. Other activities in connection with the Day included the screening of a film, "Men at Work", produced by WHO. An information officer from the Public Relations Unit participated in the work of the UNIC/NGO Programme Group on Women and Development. A round table on women's issues was organized for participants of the Graduate Study Programme, as well as the NGO community.

64. On the occasion of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Information Service convened a special meeting. Mr. K. Dadzie, Secretary-General of UNCTAD, who represented the Secretary-General, presided at the meeting. Other members included the Chairmen of the Regional Groups, and an NGO representative. United Nations publications and posters were distributed, as well as the message of the Secretary-General.

65. On 21 October, the general public was invited to join in the celebration of United Nations Day (24 October). On this occasion the Information Service organized, in co-operation with other organizations of the United Nations system at Geneva, an "Open House" at the Palais des Nations during which a number of events took place. On this occasion, the Director-General of the United Nations Office of Geneva, who is also Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights, made a statement highlighting the most relevant human rights issues. Some of these events were covered by 7 television services and 15 radio stations.

66. On the occasion of the forty-second anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Information Service, in co-operation with the Centre for Human Rights and the staff representative bodies, organized a round table on the theme "How to stop infringements on the security and independence of staff members, violations which undermine the very foundations of the United Nations". The Information Service mounted an exhibition of art works depicting the Articles of the Universal Declaration.

67. Two video clips, one featuring an appeal from the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights for the release of detained staff members and the other showing excerpts from the adoption of the Universal Declaration in 1948, were produced for the Geneva Human Rights Day commemoration ceremonies.

68. A statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Human Rights was recorded for seminars in Paraguay and Uruguay. There were several film screenings on the subject during the period. Radio and television facilities were provided to a number of journalists for coverage of human rights activities. Material was also provided to non-governmental organizations for use in feature film production and public information programmes.

2. United Nations information centres and services world-wide

69. The activities that United Nations information centres and services undertook in observance of Human Rights Day and other human rights events in 1990 included: mounting document, photographic and poster exhibitions; showing films for various audiences; producing background material, fact sheets, information kits and newsletters containing articles on human rights and related issues; disseminating relevant information materials from Headquarters such as information and press kits, background notes, press releases, official documents and translating them into local languages, as appropriate; organizing or assisting in events, meetings, public gatherings and briefings; participating in seminars, panels and lectures for educational and other institutions; and giving interviews to local media.

70. For example, among its human rights activities, the Centre in Bogota issued three press releases on the occasion of Human Rights Day 1990. These dealt with the history of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families; an exhibit of the illustrated United Nations publication The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an adaptation for children by Ruth Rocha and Otavio Roth, organized by UNIC, Bogota from 10 December 1990 to 10 January 1991; and the statement of the Secretary-General on the occasion of the Day.

71. In Rio de Janiero, the Centre focused on human rights during its weekly television programme aired on 15 December 1990. The Centre's weekly television programme "As Naçoes Unidas" is broadcast nation-wide by the educational and governmental network, TV Educativa. Contemporary forms of slavery was the topic of the Centre's weekly radio programme on 12 December 1990. The radio programme, "A ONU em Açao", is broadcast nation-wide on Radio MEC.

72. In Brazzaville, the Centre organized a three-day round table, on the occasion of Human Rights Day, from 10 to 12 December 1990. The round table discussed such topics as the United Nations and human rights, the promotion and protection of human rights, the Congolese experience in human rights, conditions of women detained in the Congo, the World Summit and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the violation of human rights in South Africa. More than 710 documents were distributed at the round table.

73. On the occasion of Human Rights Day 1990, the Centre in Prague, mimeographed and distributed the Czech translation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, together with Human Rights: Questions and Answers, to the Czechoslovak mass media, non-governmental organizations, universities, schools and selected individuals.

74. In Dacca, the Centre issued a press release to mark Human Rights Day 1990 and supplied relevant materials for discussion meetings, poster exhibitions and photo displays organized by local non-governmental organizations in the field of human rights to commemorate the Day. It also arranged two human rights seminars at its premises on 18 and 19 December 1990, in co-operation with UNAB and the Institute of Human Rights and Legal Affairs, Bangladesh.

IV. COSTS INCURRED IN 1990

75. As requested in General Assembly resolution 43/128 with regard to launching the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, activities within the framework of the campaign are to be carried out within existing resources. As indicated in the Secretary-General's report on public information activities (document A/45/590, para. 37), given the already limited resources of the Centre for Human Rights, the Centre was not able to undertake a number of projects within the context of the World Campaign because of lack of funds.

76. In keeping with the budget available for its publications programme for 1990, the Centre for Human Rights spent its allotment of $US 107,000 for its printed human rights information and reference materials. Additionally, the holding of meetings other than those organized within the framework of the advisory services and technical assistance programme (see para. 10 above) - where the attention of participants was also drawn to the aim and objectives of the World Campaign - were fully financed by the co-sponsoring governments, agencies or institutions. The participation of staff of the Centre for Human Rights in workshops and seminars organized by governments, academic and research institutions, non-governmental organizations, etc., worldwide, was financed from the travel allocation for the staff in the regular budget of the Centre, although on several occasions, participation was at no cost to the Organization, i.e. the co-sponsoring organizations were able to provide both air-tickets and accomodation.

V. BUDGET ENVISAGED FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES

A. Centre for Human Rights: budget envisaged for 1991

77. The Centre for Human Rights, in line with its publications programme for 1991, will continue to publish information and reference materials. The budget available for those activities in 1991 is $US 118,000. As indicated in its publications programme, this budget will cover expenditures for, inter alia: (a) Human Rights Fact Sheets (six) in all official languages; (b) Human Rights Newsletters (four) in English and French; (c) Bulletin of Human Rights (three) in English and French; (d) Ad hoc publications (three); (e) Human rights studies (three); (f) Human Rights Yearbooks; (g) Official Records of the Human Rights Committee; (h) Status of International Instruments (in additional official United Nations languages); (i) United Nations Action in the Field of Human Rights (in additional official United Nations languages); and (j) Selected decisions of the Human Rights Committee. The budget will also be used to finance the translation of additional versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into local languages.

78. In addition, as indicated in the budget for 1990-1991 of the Centre for Human Rights, subprogramme 3.3: World Human Rights Campaign and External Relations, approved by the General Assembly, the following activities were foreseen in connection with the World Campaign:

(a) Organization and substantive servicing of six meetings, including specialized agencies, United Nations bodies and non-governmental organizations to plan and co-ordinate the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights;

(b) Organization of four workshops and education programmes on specific target sectors in co-operation with regional and national organizations and non-governmental organizations ($US 60,000);

(c) Organization of a commemorative event for Human Rights Day ($US 5,000).

79. In connection with activity (b), the Centre will organize in the summer of 1991 a meeting, co-sponsored by UNESCO and with the participation of academic and research specialists, in order to develop a model curriculum for human rights education at the university level. The Centre will also endeavour to develop standard training and education programmes on international human rights for university audiences and is in contact with several academic institutions around the world for that purpose. Those programmes could, when available, also utilize audio-visual materials, to be developed by the Department of Public Information.

80. Additionally, the Centre will collaborate in a workshop in 1991 planned by the Department of Public Information (see also para. 81 below), to be attended by representatives of media organizations from all over the world, in order to discuss, in particular, the role of the media in connection with the aims of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights. Additional meetings are envisaged in co-operation with national and regional institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as with specialized agencies and other United Nations bodies, such as UNHCR, WHO, UNICEF, UNICRI, etc. The Centre also plans to co-operate with the Department of Public Information in the production of audio-visual teaching aids for its prototype teaching and training courses geared to various sectors of society.

B. Department of Public Information

81. During 1991, the Department will complete the mandated activities within the context of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, as elaborated in section A of this chapter. These include, in brief:

(a) Commemoration of Human Rights Day in December 1991;

(b) Completion and distribution of the illustrated text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(c) Completion and release of the 30-minute film about the work of the United Nations in the field of human rights;

(d) Production and dissemination of eight local language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(e) Completion and distribution of the educational video and study guide on the United Nations and human rights;

(f) Convening an international media round table on human rights for journalists; and,

(g) Continued publication of the biannual publication, Objective: Justice.

82. In addition, it will produce and disseminate a booklet on the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in the six official languages of the United Nations. It will also prepare a publication on the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in the six official languages.

83. These activities will be carried out within the multi-media approach of the Department. Other human rights-related mandates will also be carried out, as discussed earlier in this chapter.

VI. ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPACT OF THE WORLD CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES

84. The World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights is a new programme of the United Nations launched on 10 December 1988. Recent international political events have also had a direct bearing on human rights activities of the United Nations. In this connection, mention should be made of the last report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (A/45/1) of September 1990, which firmly establishes human rights as one of the three main priorities of the Organization for the years ahead.

85. From the launching of the World Campaign in 1988 to the time of the writing of this report, the requests for technical assistance and co-operation received by the Centre for Human Rights from Governments world-wide have been more numerous then those received by the Centre in 32 years (i.e. from 1955, the establishment of the Advisory Services and Technical Assistance programme, to 1987).

86. The utilization of mechanisms and procedures in the field of human rights has also increased. For instance, information of allegations of human rights violations to special rapporteurs or to the so-called 1503 procedure have experienced increases never witnessed before. The number of 1503 cases has moved from an average of 40,000 per year until 1988, to 300,000 in 1989 and over 120,000 in 1990.

87. There has also been an increase greater than ever before in the number of ratifications of international human rights instruments. The pattern of ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1990 and the publicity and media attention given to it have been unprecedented in the history of the United Nations action in the field of human rights. The World Summit for Children organized by UNICEF in September was an historic event which gathered for the first time ever 72 heads of State or Governments.

88. It should be noted that according to recent public opinion polls commissioned by the Department of Public Information (in 1989 and 1990) and conducted in the 12 member States of the European Community (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom), 63 per cent of those interviewed were "very interested" in the human rights activities of the United Nations. The environment, at the top of the list of issues, received 64 per cent. In a similar poll undertaken in Sweden, the highest issue of interest by those interviewed was human rights with 58 per cent, followed by the environment with 57 per cent, and international peace and security with 49 per cent. In Kenya, human rights issues were considered very interesting by 70 per cent of those interviewed and followed "world food problems" (71 per cent), which headed the list. In the USSR, 51 per cent of those interviewed considered human rights issues as very interesting, while in Poland, the figure was 41 per cent after, respectively, international peace and security (50 per cent), environment (45 per cent) and disarmament (45 per cent). In Canada, 67 per cent considered human rights very interesting after the environment, which had the highest percentage (70 per cent). In Mexico, 62 per cent were very interested in human rights, with children's issues on top with 74 per cent. In Australia, 52 per cent of those interviewed were very interested in human rights, a percentage coming after the environment with 59 per cent.

89. As indicated in last year's note of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.4/1989/19), abstracts of books and articles on human rights contained in the external materials file in the United Nations library 1/ have twice as many significant references (16 per cent) to the work of the United Nations than significant references to other United Nations activities (approximately 8 per cent). Additionally, while approximately 2 per cent of the 1.3 million wire service stories in the NEXIS data base 2/ for 1987 contained at least a reference to the United Nations, the proportion of stories on human rights with at least one reference to the United Nations was six times higher than the rate for the United Nations as a whole, i.e. 12 per cent. It is evident that human rights issues are covered more than ever before by radio, television, newspapers and other written media, and that the references to United Nations work and United Nations organs have increased considerably.

90. Since the launching of the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights, the Centre for Human Rights has more than doubled its printing workload in keeping with an increased demand for human rights information materials by non-governmental organizations, media, regional and national institutions world-wide.

91. This was first indicated in the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on Public Information Activities (A/44/660, para. 10) of October 1989 and in last year's report (A/45/590, para. 11) of October 1990 and is now also reflected in the proposed publication programme of the Centre for Human Rights for the biennium 1992-1993. Furthermore, requests for such materials in additional local languages has prompted several NGOs or other organizations to undertake their translation and printing, at their own costs, in a variety of countries.

92. The Centre for Human Rights has developed a mailing list for the distribution of its printed materials which now comprises over 5,000 addressees. The mailing list contains by country the main constituencies of the World Campaign, i.e.: academic and research communities, non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions, media and concerned individuals. It also contains United Nations information centres and services of the Department of Public Information and other United Nations field offices (UNHCR, WHO, UNESCO, etc.). They are recipients of specified copies in the appropriate languages of all human rights publications. Furthermore, the Centre also regularly supplies regional human rights organizations and institutions in Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe. The Department of Public Information also maintains a mailing list, presently being updated, which distributes human rights material worldwide.

93. Because of the growing number of NGO activities in the field of human rights the number of requests for co-operative endeavours with the United Nations has dramatically increased. Specifically, the requests for human rights materials has also rapidly increased and in a fashion that cannot be easily quantified or foreseen. Indeed, the requirements of meetings organized by such groups outside the United Nations is often known with very short delays. That is why the Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information have constantly been monitoring their stocks of human rights materials and have made provisions for reprints in keeping with expected requirements.

94. In this connection, it should also be pointed out that human rights materials, particularly Fact Sheets, are not like many other printed materials, theoretical in nature, they are very practical and do help individuals - often in critical situations - who are victims of violations of human rights. The recent debate in the General Assembly has emphasized the value of these publications in no uncertain terms. It has also been noted that a direct correlation exists between information provided in these pamphlets and the utilization of mechanisms and procedures, particularly by individuals (the so-called 1503 procedure).

95. The Centre for Human Rights and the Department of Public Information have noted a marked increase in the requests for human rights materials and in the participation in various sectors of the human rights programme, especially in regard to those activities aimed at building awareness, particularly of schools, educational communities, media, NGOs and academic and research institutions. Co-ordination efforts within the United Nations system and outside it (particularly academic and research communities, media, non-governmental organizations and other national and regional human rights institutions), in connection with the World Campaign clearly offer the best chances of success of this global effort of information on human rights. The interest and participation shown so far by United Nations bodies and the wider human rights community indicate the real potential of the World Campaign to attain its stated long-term objective of a universal culture of human rights.

Notes

1/ The external materials file of the Dag Hammarskjöld Library contains abstracts of more than 22,000 books and articles in all official languages of the United Nations and covers a geographically wide range of sources.

2/ NEXIS (Dag Hammarskjöld Library) WIRES file: a computer file containing 20 wire services, incluing AP, ASAHI, Inter Press Service, JIJI, KYODO, Reuters, TASS, UPI, Xinhua. The wire services in NEXIS are among the main sources of coverage of the United Nations utilized by the press in all parts of the world.